MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know from the Law Member whether the work will be completed within the time now proposed?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It is hoped that the work will be completed within the time. A rough estimate of all the stages of the work to be gone through has been prepared and according to this estimate the Commissioner hopes to finish the work within the time now proposed. That is all that could be stated now.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know what is the difference between the function of the Assistant Commissioner and that of the Secretary?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I cannot answer that question very definitely off-hand. But I conceive the Assistant Commissioner will take part in the examination of witnesses and also will sign the report as a member responsible for it. The Secretary will not.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know why a Secretary alone was found to be sufficient when the Assistant Commissioner is on other duty?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I have already answered the question. Just now the Commissioner wants only some ministerial assistance.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): "When the Commissioner takes evidence" will he be given an Assistant Commissioner?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I believe so.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Was the Commissioner taking evidence when the Assistant Commissioner worked?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No; they were then preparing the questionnaire. The Assistant Commissioner interviewed various legal practitioners and tried to find out the method of work, before preparing the questionnaire. Then answers had to be received and statistics had to be tabulated. It was at that time that the Assistant Commissionership was discontinued and the Secretary appointed.

PRESIDENT: I take it that the House sanctions the Demand?

The Demand was granted.

DEMAND XX.—SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant not exceeding Rs. 130 under Demand XX—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

This amount is required for the appointment of an Attender-mechanic on Rs. 20 per mensem, temporarily till the end of this year from the 16th Dhanu in the Astronomical Section of the Observatory.

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The Government Observatory consists of two sections, the Meteorological and the Astronomical Sections. These two sections were separated and placed under two officers, the Government Meteorologist and the Government Astronomer. The staff that was then available in the Observatory was also sub-divided and a part of it was given to the Astronomer. The staff the Government Astronomer gets consists of one Head Assistant on Rs. 40-70 and another assistant on Rs. 20 to 30.

The Government Astronomer has been complaining ever since that the staff given to him is inadequate and he has applied to Government for an additional clerk and a mechanic. Government are now approaching the House to sanction the additional mechanic that the Astronomer asked for. This mechanic has to be appointed because there are certain very valuable instruments in the Institution. To clean them, to look after them and to attend to minor repairs, it is desirable that a man should be specially appointed.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): That being the case, may I know why the appointment is now temporarily made?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Because Government want to review the position once again after the House sanctions this supplementary grant and to come to the House at the next Budget Session with a proposal for the permanent appointment of the mechanic, if it is considered necessary.

As I said the need for the appointment of a mechanic is real. There are certain valuable instruments which it would not be advisable to entrust to persons like peons. If a man with some knowledge of the mechanism of the instruments is appointed, he can attend to cleaning, repairs and other similar works and also help the Head Assistant and the Assistant in the regular work of the institution.

MR. REVATI NAL RAMA VAMRA RAJA (*Edavagai*): ഈ വിലപി ടിച്ച ഇൻസ്ട്രുമെൻറ്സ് വാങ്ങിയിട്ട് എത്ര കാലമായി?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Some were got down some years ago; but recently very important additions have been made.

MR. REVATI NAL RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): ഇതുകളൊക്കെ ഇപ്പോഴും നന്നാക്കുകയും ഉടയ്ക്കുകയും ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതാണോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say. It must be said that they have not been *very well* looked after—I mean the cleaning, oiling, etc. It used to be attended to by peons, which is not a proper arrangement at all.

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MR. REVATI NAL RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): സർക്കാർ പണം ചിലവു ചെയ്തു വാങ്ങിച്ച സാമാനങ്ങൾ എല്ലാം ശരിയായിട്ടു സൂക്ഷിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നാണോ പറയുന്നതു്?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I did not say so. What I meant was that we had no *regular* arrangement by which the cleaning, oiling and looking after the instruments could be attended to.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): What is the qualification prescribed for the proposed mechanic?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No qualification is prescribed. He must be a man who knows the mechanism of the instruments. He should be able to remove the parts, to clean and oil them and do sundry minor repairs. We have not yet decided as to the person who is to be appointed.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): No good mechanic would be available for the pay now offered.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am sure that for the pay now proposed we will be able to get a man who knows the elements of mechanism, which would be enough for the work that he has to do.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Would the member kindly give us an idea of the instruments that we have in the observatory?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have got a list of them here. They are—

1. The Transit Instrument.
2. The 7 ft. equitorial Telescope and its clock work.
3. The 4th Equitorial Telescope.
4. The 3rd Do. Do.
5. The 3rd Altazimuth.
6. The Sextants.
7. The solar spectroscope attached with the 7 ft. Equitorial.
8. The wireless sets.
9. The camera fittings etc., of the telescopes.
10. Other workshop accessories such as Lathes etc.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): In view of the instruments mentioned above which the mechanic now proposed to be appointed will have to attend to, I do not think that an efficient mechanic can be had for such a low pay as now proposed.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No very great expert is required for the purpose.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Does the member say that an expert is not required for adjusting telescopes, etc.?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not say that an expert is not required to adjust a telescope. But the mechanic

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now proposed to be appointed is not required to adjust telescopes or attend to works of that kind. His duty is only to care for the instruments, to oil and clean them and to attend to minor repairs.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): With regard to the mechanic whose qualifications we are not able to gather, we wish to know whether he should be competent to adjust or repair astronomical telescopes?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I was speaking only of small repairs, minor repairs, which have to be attended to by the mechanic.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): With reference to telescopes, will the member give one instance of a minor repair?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Suppose some screw is gone. (*Laughter.*)

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Does not the member think that if an incompetent person is asked to do this work, the costly machine will be spoiled?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, but it would be worse if no body does the work. It is to prevent that that it is proposed to appoint a mechanic. It would not be so difficult as members imagine to get a man who knows the elements of repairs on such a pay. That is all that is required.

PRESIDENT: I take it that the House sanctions the grant?

The grant was made.

LEGISLATION.

THE TRAVANCORE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT COURTS REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The next item of the business is the Final Reading of the Travancore Village Panchayat Courts Regulation Amendment Bill.

Before I make the motion, I want to move a formal amendment to the Bill. It is merely to fill up a blank. I therefore move that the figure '6' be inserted in Clause (1) after the figures 110 so that it may read 1106.

MR. T. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I second the motion.

The motion was accepted.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I now beg to move that the Bill be finally passed.

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): I second it.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I oppose the motion that the Bill be finally passed.

It is my privilege to oppose the Bill for the third time. I opposed it at the last time but it was passed by a majority.

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